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Chairpersons Senator Anne Carney and Representative Amy Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee. I am testifying today in favor of LD 1911 An Act to Automatically Seal Criminal History Record Information for Certain Crimes.

My name is Pat Kimball, and I am retired after 35 years of working in the field of substance use disorder and mental health. In my retirement I continued my work as an advocate for prevention, treatment, recovery and harm reduction. Today as I was scrolling through social media, I came across a quote that made me think about the importance of this bill. It went: "Choose to be kind and compassionate to others. Because of who you are...not because of who they are or aren't." This bill for me gives people who through hard work a chance at a better life for themselves and their families in earning a second chance. I couldn't have done the work I did all these years without believing in second chances nor could I have stayed married for 54 years without second chances and learning forgiveness. For me this is all part of recovery, and it is away to allow the past to be the past. In a perfect world we would say of course the past is the past but unfortunately this world is filled with many who are unable to let go and make judgements based on past behavior without recognizing change is possible.

This bill is not about soft on crime, it was not about letting people "off the hook" and it was not about people not taking responsibility. The bill is all about recognizing that people do make amends and take responsibility for their actions. Individuals eligible for this seal of criminal record information are those who have not committed another crime, who have served their time, paid their fines and have completed supervised release. These are individuals who are in your community trying to make a better life for themselves, their family and their community. The bill is not about immediate changes but for some 5 years and in some cases a 10 years of a crime free life. This time frame shows that people are making a difference in their life choices and earn recognition for this.

This bill also excludes those violent crimes, ones that involved domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Those individuals are not eligible for this seal which will ensure public safety is recognized. It also includes a way for law enforcement to have access to these records if by chance a crime is committed again. In my opinion this bill will help those who are qualified in gaining employment, housing and education. All three of these are important components in having a healthy life and being a good community member. Let's vote for a second chance for these individuals who have made significant changes in their lives.

I would have loved to present my testimony in person but have another commitment of this day but I would be more than happy to talk to or answer questions for the

committee. Please consider passing this very important bill and be part of changing and improving the quality of life for many.